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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 HA-05 /120 W
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R 021140Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0252

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MZ, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: LOCAL ZAMBIAN DIPLOMAT COMMENTS ON MUGABE-NKOMO STATEMENT

1. DURING FEB. 28 DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, ARTHUR MAPOMA, COUNSELLOR AT ZAMBIAN EMBASSY MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT RECENT MUGABE-NKOMO MEETING IN MAPUTO AND PF STATEMENT OF FEB. 25. MAPOMA HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN ZANU AND ZAPU AND IS KEEN OBSERVER OF ZIMBABWEAN PROBLEM.

2. MAPOMA SAID THAT STRONG AND ACERBIC PF STATEMENT WAS MEANT NOT ONLY AS A REBUKE TO BRITISH AND AMERICANS BUT ALSO AS A SIGNAL TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT PF LEADERS WILL NOT HAVE THEIR ARMS TWISTED INTO DOING ANYTHING THEY DO NOT WANT TO DO. MAPOMA SAID THAT BOTH MUGABE AND NKOMO WERE FULLY AWARE OF MOZAMBIQUE'S FEB. 23 STATEMENT SUPPORTING ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN
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AND HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL BEFORE THEIR OWN STATEMENT WAS RELEASED. ALTHOUGH MAPOMA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MACHEL AND PF LEADERS, HE BELIEVES MACHEL URGED THEM TO GET ON WITH NEGOTIATIONS. HARD-LINE PF STATEMENT, MAPOMA THINKS, WAS PF WAY OF TELLING MACHEL AND OTHER FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT BE RUSHED OR PUSHED INTO TALKING ABOUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN.

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3. MAPOMA THINKS THAT FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS WILL AT THEIR FORTH-
COMING MEETING CONTINUE TO ENDORSE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN AS BASIS
FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION AND TO PUSH FOR PF UNITY, WHICH IS AL-
MOST NON-EXISTENT EXCEPT WHEN NKOMO AND MUGABE MEET. MAPOMA CON-
CLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE WALKED OUT
ON A WEAK LIMB BY BACKING PF AND GIVING INCREASING VERBAL SUPPORT
TO ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS VIRTUALLY CREATED
PF AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING PF LEADERS TO GO TO MALTA
TO TALK ABOUT ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. IF PF SHOULD COME TO POWER
IN ZIMBABWE AND THERE IS A CIVIL WAR, FRONT LINE WILL BE ACCUSED
OF HAVING CREATED A BAD SITUATION.

4. VISITING AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMAT IAN JAMES ALSO PASSED ON INFORMA-
TION TO EMBOFF ABOUT HIS FEB. 28 MEETING WITH ROBERT MUGABE.
DURING MEETING, MUGABE BITTERLY DENOUNCED FOREIGN SECRETARY
OWEN, CALLING HIM "UNPRINCIPLED, DECEPTIVE AND UNTRUSTWORTHY."
MUGABE SAID IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT BRITAIN HAD ABANDONED ITS EF-
FORTS TO FIND INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION TO ZIMBABWE PROBLEM. PF,
MUGABE SAID, WOULD ONLY RESUME TALKS ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN IF
IT WERE "CERTAIN OF BRITISH SINCERITY AND THAT THE BRITISH PRO-
POSALS ARE CONSTRUCTIVE." ACCORDING TO JAMES, MUGABE ALSO
INSISTED THAT ZANU AND ZAPU WERE WORKING TOWARD UNIFICATION, BUT ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS MADE CRITICAL ASIDES ABOUT NKOMO'S POLITICS
AND PAST UNPREDICTABILITY.
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NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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